



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release

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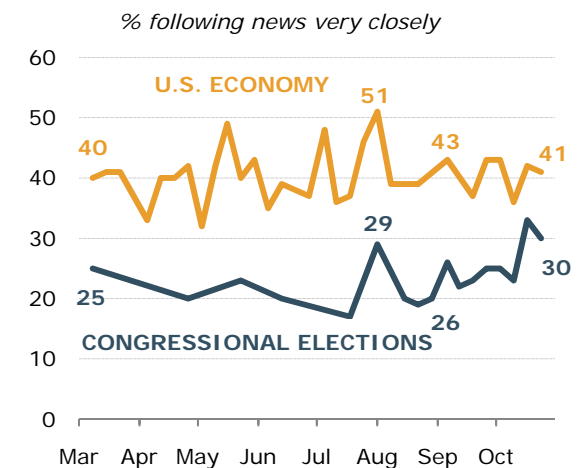
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About Half Say GOP Likely to Win House Majority Public Keeps Focus on Economy, Media on Elections

While the media provided heavy coverage of the congressional elections last week, the public continued to track news about the nation's struggling economy more closely than news about the midterm vote.

About four-in-ten (41%) say they followed news about the economy very closely last week, while 30% say they followed news about the elections very closely, according to the latest News Interest Index survey of 1,006 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. By another measure, 24% say they followed news about the economy more closely than any other major story; 20% say they followed news about the elections most closely.

News About Economy Grabs Public Interest More than Elections



PEW RESEARCH CENTER October 21-24, 2010

Election news dominated coverage, accounting for 38% of the newshole, according to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ). The economy was a distant second, accounting for 12% of coverage.

Throughout 2010, larger percentages of the public have said they are following news about the economy very closely than have said the same about election news. Though the public's interest in election news has increased in recent weeks, the pattern set earlier in the year still holds.

In terms of media focus, coverage has tilted heavily toward the elections since Sept. 1. Midterm news has accounted for 25% of the newshole in this period, compared with 13% for the economy. Still, for the entire year so far, coverage of the two top stories is similar – 12% for the economy and 9% for the elections, according to PEJ.

With signs of potential large GOP gains in the election, Republicans continue to track election news more closely than Democrats or independents. Nearly four-in-ten Republicans (39%) say they followed election news very closely last week, compared with 27% of Democrats and 26% of independents.

Republicans also are more likely to say they are interested in elections around the country, rather than just those in which they can vote. Overall, the public is divided on this question: 42% say they are interested in elections around the country, while 43% say they are mostly interested in elections in which they can participate. Those numbers are little changed from the last time this question was asked in mid-September.

Republicans Thinking Nationally

<i>Mostly interested in...</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Elections around the country	42	60	36	37
Elections you can vote in	43	34	53	40
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>23</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER October 21-24, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Six-in-ten Republicans (60%) say they are interested in elections around the country, while 34% say they are mostly just interested in those elections they can vote in. Among Democrats, more than half (53%) say they are mostly interested in the elections in which they can take part; 36% say they are interested in elections around the country. Independents are divided: 37% say they are interested in elections around the country, 40% say they are mostly interested in the elections they can vote in and 23% do not offer an opinion.

Nearly Half Say GOP Likely to Win House Majority

When asked whether they think it is more likely that Democrats will maintain their majority in the House or that Republicans will regain control, 48% say they think it is more likely that Republicans will win a majority of House seats. That is about the same as the 50% that said this at the beginning of October.

Among those following election news very closely, more than six-in-ten (62%) say the Republicans are poised to retake control. That drops to 43% among those following this news less closely.

Republicans remain confident. Nearly eight-in-ten (78%) say it is likely that their party will regain the majority it lost in 2006. A majority of Democrats (56%), however, says they think it is more likely their party will maintain control of the House. That is essentially unchanged from the 55% of Democrats saying this earlier in October.

Among independents, 48% say they think it is likely that Republicans will win control while 24% say it is likely that Democrats will hold on; 28% of independents do not offer an opinion. These numbers also are little changed from two weeks ago.

Only Party Members See Dems Keeping House Majority

<i>More likely election outcome...</i>	Dems maintain majority %	Reps regain majority %	DK %
Total	33	48	19=100
Republican	12	78	10=100
Democrat	56	27	16=100
Independent	24	48	28=100
<i>Following election news...</i>			
Very closely	25	62	13=100
Less closely	36	43	21=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER October 21-24, 2010.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Mixed Ratings for Campaign Coverage

The public gives mixed ratings to the media for the job they have done covering the midterm elections, both nationwide and locally. More than four-in-ten (43%) say news organizations have done an excellent (8%) or good (35%) job covering elections around the country; 46% judge the performance as only fair (30%) or poor (16%).

Looking at coverage of state and local elections, 47% say news organizations have done an excellent (11%) or good (36%) job covering these contests; 43% say coverage of these races has been only fair (29%) or poor (14%). Differences among partisans on both the national and local levels are small.

News Coverage of 2010 Congressional Elections

<i>Rating of campaign news coverage by...</i>	Excellent/ Good	Fair/ Poor	DK
National news organizations	43	46	11=100
Local news organizations	47	43	10=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER October 21-24, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The Week's News

The public continues to track the ups and downs of the U.S. economy closely. About four-in-ten (41%) say they followed news about the economy very closely last week, while 24% say this was the news they followed most closely. Economic news accounted for 12% of the coverage measured by PEJ.

Three-in-ten (30%) say they followed news about the Congressional elections very closely, about the same as the 33% that said this one week earlier. Two-in-ten (20%) say this was the news they followed most closely. News about the elections accounted for 38% of the newshole.

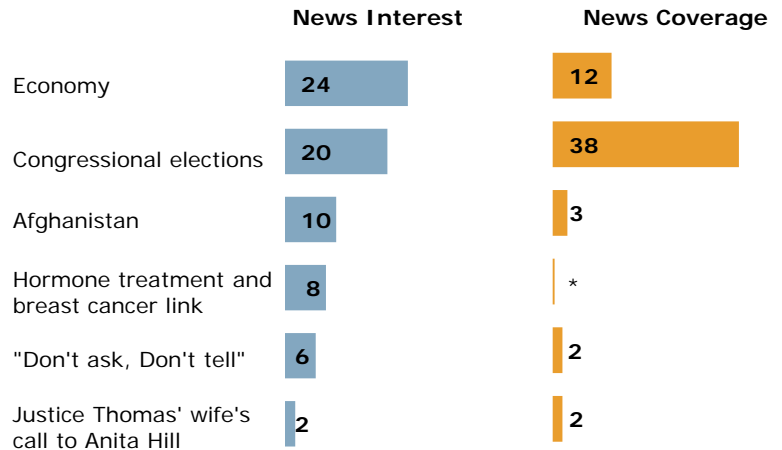
About two-in-ten (21%) say they followed developments in Afghanistan very closely last week, while 10% say this was the story they followed most closely. The media devoted 3% of coverage to Afghanistan.

Just 17% say they followed news about potential breast cancer risks for women taking hormone treatments very closely and 8% say this was the story they followed most closely. This story received less than 1% of coverage. Not surprisingly, women were twice as likely to track this story very closely as men were (22% vs. 11%) and nearly three-in-ten women 50 or older (28%) say they followed this news very closely.

Two-in-ten (20%) say they followed developments about the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy concerning gays in the military very closely; 6% say they followed this news more closely than any other major story. News about the policy accounted for 2% of coverage.

One-in-ten (10%) say they followed news about Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's wife calling Anita Hill to seek an apology for her harassment claims during the

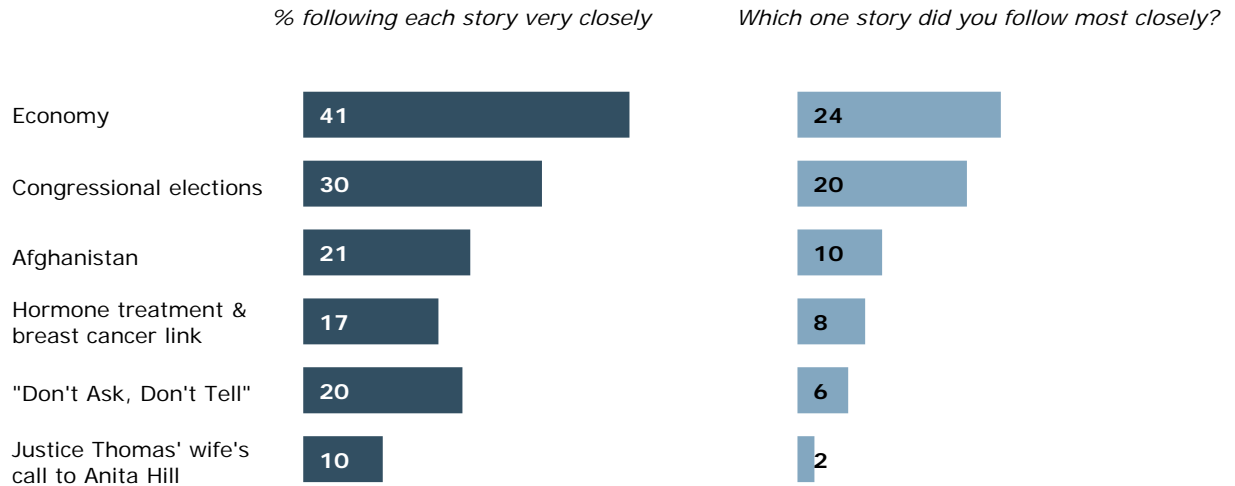
News Coverage



News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, Oct. 21-24, 2010. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, Oct. 18-24, 2010.

justice's 1991 confirmation hearings. Democrats (14%) are slightly more likely to say they followed this story very closely than Republicans (8%) or independents (8%). Just 2% say this was the story they followed most closely; news about the call from Ginni Thomas to Anita Hill accounted for 2% of coverage.

News Interest



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Oct. 21-24, 2010.

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected October 18-24, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected October 21-24, from a nationally representative sample of 1,006 adults.

About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Thursday through Sunday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,002 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from October 21-24, 2010 (673 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 333 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 133 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,006	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	275	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	335	6.5 percentage points
Independents ¹	396	6.0 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

¹ Throughout the survey independents include all respondents who do not identify as Republicans or Democrats.

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to www.people-press.org.

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
OCTOBER 21-24, 2010 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1006

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
October 21-24, 2010	41	29	14	14	1
October 14-17, 2010	42	33	12	13	*
October 7-10, 2010	36	33	15	15	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	43	35	10	11	1
September 23-26, 2010	43	34	13	9	1
September 16-19, 2010	37	30	16	16	1
September 2-6, 2010	43	31	13	12	*
August 19-22, 2010	39	31	14	15	1
August 5-8, 2010	39	33	14	13	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	51	33	11	5	*
July 22-25, 2010	46	33	14	6	1
July 15-18, 2010	37	33	14	15	1
July 8-11, 2010	36	33	15	16	*
July 1-5, 2010	48	30	13	8	*
June 24-27, 2010	37	37	15	11	1
June 17-20, 2010	38	34	15	13	*
June 10-13, 2010	39	35	17	9	*
June 3-6, 2010	35	33	16	14	1
May 27-30, 2010	43	29	13	15	*
May 20-23, 2010	40	35	13	11	*
May 13-16, 2010	49	32	11	8	1
May 7-10, 2010	42	34	11	12	*
April 30-May 3, 2010	32	37	17	14	1
April 23-26, 2010	42	31	13	14	*
April 16-19, 2010	40	32	14	14	0
April 9-12, 2010	40	32	15	13	*
April 1-5, 2010	33	34	14	19	*
March 19-22, 2010	41	32	14	13	*
March 12-15, 2010	41	35	12	12	*
March 5-8, 2010	40	34	12	13	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	31	33	17	19	*
February 19-22, 2010	38	34	15	12	*
February 12-15, 2010	35	34	15	16	*
February 5-8, 2010	43	36	13	9	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	32	13	10	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	34	14	10	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	38	14	11	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	33	15	12	*
December 18-21, 2009	45	31	14	10	0
December 11-14, 2009	42	31	14	13	*
December 4-7, 2009	41	36	13	9	1
November 13-16, 2009	38	33	14	15	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	34	32	17	16	*
October 23-26, 2009	44	30	15	10	1
October 9-12, 2009	41	29	16	13	*
October 2-5, 2009	44	30	15	11	0
September 25-28, 2009	44	37	10	10	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
September 18-21, 2009	44	34	15	7	*
September 11-14, 2009	45	32	14	9	*
September 3-6, 2009	41	31	15	13	*
August 28-31, 2009	45	30	13	12	1
August 21-24, 2009	50	27	13	10	1
August 14-17, 2009	41	37	11	12	*
August 7-10, 2009	42	34	13	10	*
July 31-August 3, 2009	46	34	11	8	*
July 24-27, 2009	45	35	12	8	*
July 17-20, 2009	43	35	11	11	1
July 10-13, 2009	37	38	13	11	*
July 2-5, 2009	38	35	15	12	*
June 19-22, 2009	42	33	15	10	*
June 12-15, 2009	41	35	12	12	*
June 5-8, 2009	41	34	11	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
May 1-4, 2009	47	36	11	5	1
April 17-20, 2009	52	30	10	7	1
April 9-13, 2009	48	29	13	10	0
March 27-30, 2009	48	32	10	10	*
March 20-23, 2009	52	34	8	6	*
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1
b. News about this year's congressional elections					
October 21-24, 2010	30	28	18	23	1
October 14-17, 2010	33	25	19	23	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October 7-10, 2010	23	27	19	30	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	25	34	19	21	1
September 23-26, 2010	25	33	23	18	1
September 16-19, 2010	23	26	23	27	1
September 9-12, 2010	22	23	21	34	1
September 2-6, 2010	26	24	23	26	1
August 26-29, 2010	20	27	23	28	1
August 19-22, 2010	19	23	24	33	1
August 12-15, 2010	20	22	19	38	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	29	34	22	14	*
July 15-18, 2010	17	23	26	33	1
June 10-13, 2010	20	29	24	27	1
May 20-23, 2010	23	25	24	27	*
April 23-26, 2010	20	25	19	35	*
March 5-8, 2010	25	27	21	26	1
January 8-11, 2010	20	24	26	29	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
October 24-27, 2008: <i>News about candidates for local and statewide elections</i>	20	35	24	20	1
Early November, 2006: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	27	37	18	17	1
Late October, 2006 (RVs)	27	45	17	11	*
Early October, 2006	21	38	25	15	1
Early September, 2006	16	32	28	23	1
August, 2006	20	29	28	22	1
June, 2006	18	30	29	21	2
May, 2006	18	28	30	23	1
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	27	46	18	9	*
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	28	34	24	13	1
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	21	46	22	10	1
Early September, 2002	17	29	29	24	1
Late October, 1998 (RVs)	26	45	20	9	*
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	21	43	24	11	1
Early September, 1998	17	32	28	23	*
Early August, 1998	13	30	28	23	1
June, 1998	9	27	33	30	1
April, 1998 ¹	16	33	24	27	*
November, 1994	18	42	25	15	*
Late October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1
Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1
September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*
November, 1990	38	34	17	11	*
October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*
c. News about the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy concerning gays in the military					
October 21-24, 2010	20	28	22	28	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
October 14-17, 2010: <i>A federal judge's decision to block the enforcement of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy concerning gays in the military</i>	20	24	25	30	1

¹ In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state." In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
September 23-26, 2010: <i>Debate about whether Congress should repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy concerning gays in the military</i>	24	30	22	22	2
May 27-30, 2010: <i>Congressional debate over whether to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy concerning gays in the military</i>	16	22	24	37	1
February 5-8, 2010: <i>Military leaders saying they support allowing gays to serve openly in the military</i>	19	31	26	24	*
August, 1993: <i>Bill Clinton's decision to ease the ban on homosexuals in the military</i>	44	37	13	5	1
February, 1993: <i>Bill Clinton's attempts to lift the ban on gays in the military</i>	45	35	14	6	*
d. The current situation and events in Afghanistan					
October 21-24, 2010	21	34	23	21	1
October 7-10, 2010	21	36	20	22	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	23	37	23	15	1
September 23-26, 2010	29	40	19	11	1
September 9-12, 2010	30	33	20	17	*
July 29-August 1, 2010	34	35	22	9	*
July 15-18, 2010	22	33	23	22	*
July 8-11, 2010	23	32	24	20	1
July 1-5, 2010	29	34	23	14	1
June 17-20, 2010	21	30	27	22	*
May 20-23, 2010	22	33	25	20	*
April 9-12, 2010	21	29	27	22	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 24-27, 2010: <i>General Stanley McChrystal resigning as head of U.S. forces in Afghanistan after being quoted criticizing President Obama and his Afghanistan strategy</i>	28	31	19	21	1
February 19-22, 2010: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	24	36	21	19	*
January 8-11, 2010: <i>Suicide bombing that killed seven Americans at a CIA base in Afghanistan</i>	24	31	27	17	1
December 11-14, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	35	33	18	13	*
December 4-7, 2009: <i>President Obama's decision to send more U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	43	33	14	8	1
November 20-23, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	29	31	17	22	1
November 13-16, 2009	29	28	20	22	1
November 6-9, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	22	35	24	18	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	24	32	21	22	*
October 23-26, 2009	32	29	21	18	*
October 16-19, 2009	25	31	20	24	*
September 25-28, 2009: <i>The debate over whether to send more troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	40	17	16	*
September 18-21, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	33	25	16	*
September 11-14, 2009	25	35	22	18	1
September 3-6, 2009	23	33	23	21	0

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
August 7-10, 2009	24	32	23	21	1
March 20-23, 2009	24	32	22	22	*
February 20-23, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's decision to send 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan</i>	27	29	24	19	1
January 30-February 2, 2009: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	26	34	24	16	*
January 2-4, 2009	22	33	23	21	1
October 24-27, 2008	28	32	22	17	1
October 10-13, 2008: <i>The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters</i>	19	34	29	18	*
September 12-15, 2008	21	34	25	19	1
August 29-31, 2008	18	27	32	23	*
July 18-21, 2008	27	33	24	16	*
July 11-14, 2008	19	28	29	23	1
July 3-7, 2008	19	28	32	21	*
June 20-23, 2008	20	30	30	20	*
Late July, 2002: <i>The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan</i>	41	38	13	7	1
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1
January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1
e. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's wife calling Anita Hill to ask for an apology October 21-24, 2010	10	15	21	52	2
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
Mid-October, 1991: <i>The nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court</i>	41	34	15	9	1
Early October, 1991	28	35	18	18	1
July, 1991: <i>The nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court of Clarence Thomas to replace retiring Justice Thurgood Marshall</i>	33	33	19	14	1
f. Medical research indicating a link between hormone treatment and breast cancer October 21-24, 2010	17	21	21	39	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
November 20-23, 2009: <i>New guidelines recommending when women should get mammograms</i>	34	25	18	22	*

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? **[DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]**

Oct 21-24

2010

24	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
20	News about this year's Congressional elections
10	The current situation and events in Afghanistan
8	Medical research indicating a link between hormone treatment and breast cancer
6	News about the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy concerning gays in the military
2	Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas's wife calling Anita Hill to ask for an apology
9	Some other story (VOL.)
21	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Thinking about this year's congressional elections, would you say that you are interested in what's happening in elections around the country, or are you mostly just interested in the elections you get to vote in?

Oct 21-24

2010

42	Interested in elections around the country
43	Elections you get to vote in
14	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Sept 16-19

2010

46
41
13

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Thinking about news coverage of this year's congressional elections, how would you rate the job **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**: excellent, good, only fair, or poor? How about the job the **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. National news organizations have done covering elections around the country October 21-24, 2010	8	35	30	16	11
b. Local news organizations have done covering your state and local elections October 21-24, 2010	11	36	29	14	10

PEW.5 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

PEW.6 From what you've read and heard about the congressional elections this fall, what do you think is more likely to happen? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Oct 21-24

2010

33 The Democratic Party will maintain its majority in the House of Representatives
[OR]

48 The Republican Party will regain a majority in the House of Representatives

19 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

Oct 7-10

2010

29

50

22

Sep 2-6

2010

34

41

25

Jul 15-18

2010

33

40

27

PEW.7 THROUGH PEW.8 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED